

## Summary of September 14, 2004 Community Meeting

1. **Introductions**— The City introduced Andrew “Drew” Kleis and Deborah “Deb” Castillo, who work in the City’s Storm Water Pollution Prevention Division, as the Project Managers for two Chollas Creek grants. To facilitate the evening’s discussion, Nina Fishman and Maggie Taylor of the City’s OEP department were on hand. Individual introductions of community members in attendance were also made. This is the second of six meetings over the next three years. The initial two to three meetings will be focused on the restoration of a portion of Chollas Creek adjacent to “Youth Park” and Jacobs Foundation land.
2. **Review August 31, 2004 Community Meeting**— The group reviewed the August 31<sup>st</sup> meeting summary and attachments, which included design suggestions from the community on the creek restoration at Youth Park, and two questions from the “Question Parking Lot” (copies of the meeting summary and attachments were mailed to all contacts and attendees, and provided at the September 14, 2004 meeting). Summaries of the responses Drew and Deb provided to the two parking lot questions from the August 31 meeting are provided below:
  - a. *Improvements need to carry over to other areas; how can we take the learning from this project and apply to other areas?* Response: The Chollas Creek Enhancement Program (<http://www.sannet.gov/planning/documents.shtml>), developed by the community and implemented by the City’s Planning Department, serves as the guidance document for all creek restoration activities, and its development regulations for Chollas Creek help attain consistency. Planning Department staff charged with implementing the Chollas Creek Enhancement Program are involved in the creek restoration activities at Youth Park, and will help carry over the lessons learned from this project to future restoration efforts. In addition, Drew stated that contact lists, meeting summaries and other information developed as part of this project will be distributed to other City project managers performing work in Chollas Creek.
  - b. *How do we communicate information to people who are absent from meetings?* Response: There are two primary mechanisms to communicate information. First, meeting summaries (like this one) and any additional meeting information will be mailed to everyone on the project contact list (the names on this list comprise the Neighborhood Advisory Council). Second, the City is developing a website for the Chollas Creek Environmental Improvement & Awareness Programs projects on the Think Blue website ([www.thinkbluesd.org](http://www.thinkbluesd.org)). The City will be posting meeting summaries, notices, and other project information on this website. The Chollas Creek Environmental Improvement & Awareness Programs page on the Think Blue website is slated to be operational in November 2004.

3. **Review Project Description—** The 1-page Fact Sheet entitled, "Overview" provided at the August 31 meeting was again distributed at this meeting (Attachment 1 to this mailing). Deborah outlined the education and awareness programs she is managing in the Chollas Creek Watershed. She voiced a need for residents and businesses to participate in a series of upcoming focus group discussions. The focus group work will begin in October/November with the purpose of identifying motivating messages, outreach methods and tools that will be most effective in the Chollas Creek watershed. Those interested in participating in the education focus group discussions are asked to contact Deborah at (619) 525-8649 or via e-mail at dcastillo@sandiego.gov.

Drew Kleis then began to outline the Chollas Creek Restoration Project at Youth Park (see Fact Sheet for a summary of the activities). The Project will implement creek restoration improvements in accordance with the Chollas Creek Enhancement Program developed by the community and adopted by the San Diego City Council in May 2002. The City is seeking community input regarding the design aspects to be incorporated into the creek restoration project. This meeting is the chance for the community to provide additional guidance to the City and refine and prioritize input received at the August 31 meeting. After receiving input from the Community at this meeting, the City will begin preparing conceptual creek restoration plans. Future meetings will provide updates to the community as the design progresses.

4. **Community Discussion and Input—** The meeting broke-up into workgroups where design elements and suggestions from the previous meeting were reviewed and prioritized in order of importance. Drew reiterated that the City is seeking community input to help produce a better project that represents the community. The City handed out a summary (see Attachment 2) that divided community comments from the previous meeting into four major groups: settings, facilities/recreation, terrain, and safety. The first group reviewed settings and terrain, while the second group reviewed facilities/recreation and safety. After a 30 minute session, each group presented its ideas to the whole meeting. These ideas are attached and titled "Chollas Creek Restoration at Youth Park Design Suggestions from the September 14, 2004 Meeting" (Attachment 3). It is important to note that the City's Chollas Creek restoration project will perform in Chollas Creek. Related improvements at the Youth Park site, such as the design of the skateboard park, are managed by the Jacobs Foundation. The City is working in coordination with the Jacobs Foundation to ensure that issues identified by the community are communicated to the Jacobs Foundation, and to ensure that the two adjacent projects are well integrated in their design.
5. **Closing Remarks—** Several additional questions were added to the Question Parking Lot (see Attachment 4 for the list of questions and responses). These questions will be discussed at the next community meeting. The next

meeting tentatively slated for early December 2004. Drew will distribute notices prior to the December meeting.

Some community members expressed interest in reaching out to more members of the community to advertise the meetings and seek input. The City may coordinate future meetings with the Jacobs Foundation, which already has established community groups. Drew asked that anyone in attendance please feel free to distribute flyers to friends and others in the community. The City will also continue to work to distribute meeting notices and information to as many community members as possible. Drew also reiterated that they may provide names of interested members of the public to him at [akleis@sanidiego.gov](mailto:akleis@sanidiego.gov) or (619) 525-8623.